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Fridays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
HSS Auditorium

HL2004 S1 AY2018-2019

Sensibility & Romanticism



Description

The Age of Sensibility and Romanticism witnessed a surge of interest in emotional responsiveness, imagination, and individual subjectivity. These inward explorations coincided with a series of political, cultural, and philosophical debates that reconfigured public life and continue to shape our modern sensibilities. Among these were issues concerning sociability, the notion of childhood, the relationship between Enlightenment thought and political radicalism, the role of the creative artist, the education of women and the working classes, and the organization of knowledge. Taking taxonomy as an overall theme, this course begins by delineating approaches to perception, reading, and emotion that emerged during the long eighteenth century. Following this, we will examine seminal texts by William Wordsworth and Jane Austen before embarking on a series of thematic lectures on the city, education and children's books, and the pleasures and pains of opium. This course explores a variety of primary source material in order to reflect the diversity of print culture between 1740 and 1820. Poetry, fiction, and essays will be examined alongside pedagogical theory, discourses on elocution and aesthetics, and visual art. Throughout the course, we will consider our own experience as readers of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century texts in relation to reading practice during the period. How did rising literacy rates and innovations in textual production and circulation influence form, genre, and taste?

Learning Objectives

This course aims to develop critical reading, writing, and research skills through a study of eighteenth-century and Romantic literature and culture. It offers opportunities to engage with the concepts and networks of ideas that characterize literary discourse and to formulate independent, analytical arguments.

Required Texts

- Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Margaret Anne Doody, Claire Lamont, and James Kingsley. Oxford World's Classics, Oxford University Press, 2008.
- All other texts are included in the Course Reader (available in B1 of HSS)

Assessments

Participation: 10%
Paper Proposal 10%
Term Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 50%



Late Penalties

The Paper Proposal is due on **Friday, September 21st** and the Term Paper is due on **Friday, November 16th**. In each case, please submit a hard copy of your work at the beginning of class, and a soft copy via Turnitin (uploaded no later than 14:30 on the due date). Late work will be penalized one half-mark per day late (an A paper submitted one day late would drop to an A-, etc.) and will not receive written feedback. Late work will only be accepted within 48 hours of the deadline.

Schedule

1. August 17th - Introduction

- William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (1807)

2. August 24th - Ways of Seeing

- Edmund Burke, selections from *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1745)
- Uvedale Price, selections from *An Essay on the Picturesque* (1796)

3. August 31st - Ways of Reading

- Isaac Watts, "Of Books and Reading," from *The Improvement of the Mind* (1741)
- Thomas Sheridan, "Gesture," from *A Course of Lectures on Elocution* (1762)
- John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" (1816)

4. September 7th - Ways of Feeling

- Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)

5. September 14th - Ways of Feeling II

- Ang Lee and Emma Thompson, *Sense and Sensibility* (1995)

6. September 21st - Romantic Storytelling

- William Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*, "Simon Lee," "She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways" (1800)

7. September 28th - Romantic Questioning

- William Wordsworth, "Anecdote for Fathers," "Resolution and Independence" (1807)

8. October 12th - Urbanity

- Joanna Baillie, "London" (1800)
- Charles Lamb, "The Londoner" (1802)
- William Hazlitt, "On Londoners and Country People" (1823)

9. October 19th - Constructing Childhood

- William Blake, "The Lamb," "A Cradle Song" (1789)
- Anna Letitia Barbauld, "What is Education?" (1798)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (1798)

10. October 26th - Writing for Children

- Anon., selections from *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1787)
- Anna Letitia Barbauld, selections from *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781)
- William Roscoe, *The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast* (1805)

11. November 2nd - Essay Consultations

12. November 9th - Intoxication and Imagination

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (1816)
- Thomas De Quincey, selections from *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821)

13. November 16th - Conclusion and Exam Review

